

OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL
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WORLD NOW GIRDLED BY ARMY SURGEONS

In a recent interview, Brigadier General Fred W. Rankin, USA, explained the basic organization of the surgical service. The Army Medical Department has thrown a network of surgery around the globe so our soldiers on every front are receiving prompt and continued skillful surgical care. A surgical procedure started on a Pacific Island within range of Japanese snipers may end at a field hospital 100 miles away with the man ready to return to the firing line or it may end in a general hospital in California.

Closest to the line of battle and almost always under artillery fire are the battalion aid stations where emergency surgery may be performed. Further behind the lines are the collecting stations which prepare the men for transportation, and the clearing stations which have complete surgical equipment.

When the nature of the battle warrants it, clearing stations are reinforced by the addition of mobile surgical units which move as close to the fighting line as possible. The equipment is carried on specially designed automobile trucks and when no farmhouse or other building is available, the hospital is set up in tents. These mobile surgical teams operate promptly on head, chest, abdomen and other emergency cases which cannot stand transportation.

Other wounded are sent to the evacuation hospitals for pre-operative treatment and definitive surgery. If additional treatment is needed, the man is sent to a general hospital far removed from the combat zone. If he cannot be returned to duty within a limited time, he is sent to a general hospital in the United States.

General hospitals in this country now include 20 neurosurgical centers, five centers for chest surgery, six amputation centers, and five plastic surgery centers, as well as other hospitals devoted to special cases.

As an aid to maintaining the highest surgical standards the Medical Department has traveling consultants in surgery, neurosurgery and orthopedic surgery in each service command who visit the hospitals of that command regularly. These consultants, drawn from our leading medical schools and top-ranking surgical societies, represent the finest surgical talent in America.

General Fox Receives Typhus Commission Medal

Brigadier General Leon A. Fox, USA, has been awarded the Typhus Commission Medal for "exceptionally meritorious service rendered first as Director and later as Field Director of the United States of America Typhus Commission." General Fox directed the Typhus Control Project of Naples in December, 1943, which brought the epidemic in southern Italy under control within a month.

LIMITED-SERVICE MEDICAL OFFICERS EXAMINED FOR OVERSEAS DUTY

Because of the urgent need for Medical Corps Officers for overseas assignment, a survey is being made of all those in the Army Service Forces who are now on permanent limited service with a view to their possible re-classification, according to a recent order. Many it is felt, can be assigned to communication zone installations overseas where they can perform duties similar to those in the zone of the interior. Medical Corps officers will not be considered disqualified for overseas service if they can be expected to render effective professional service without appreciable risk of aggravating physical defects or if they have histories of defects which are not demonstrable and have not resulted in hospitalization while in service.

Port of Embarkation Surgeons Hear About Reconditioning

Colonel Augustus Thorndike, MC, Director of the Reconditioning Consultants Division, spoke at a conference of Port of Embarkation Surgeons in Chicago, September 29. His subject was a program for reconditioning aboard hospital ships.

GENERAL SIMMONS RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE FROM MARQUETTE

Brigadier General J. S. Simmons, USA, Chief of the Preventive Medicine Service, Office of The Surgeon General, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science and delivered the commencement address at the graduation exercises of the School of Medicine, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wis., on September 27. Prior to the graduation, he addressed the Milwaukee Medical Society and the student body of Marquette Medical School on the subject of "Progress of the Army's Fight Against the Insects."

First Nurses to School of Military Government

Captain Grace Alt, ANC, Fort Meade, Md., and Captain Mildred Lucka, ANC, McCloskey General Hospital, Texas, have been selected as the first nurses to attend the School of Military Government at Charlottesville, Va., to qualify for assignment to Civil Affairs Administration in the Far East.

SGO OFFICERS SPEAK ON PENICILLIN

Three representatives of the Office of The Surgeon General spoke on penicillin at the Kentucky State Medical Association meeting, Lexington, Ky., September 19. Brigadier General H. J. Morgan, MC, Chief Consultant in Medicine, discussed the use of penicillin in medical diseases, Colonel B. N. Carter, MC, Assistant Director of the Surgical Consultants Division, discussed its surgical aspects and Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Sternberg, MC, Director of the Venereal Disease Control Division, discussed penicillin as an agent in the treatment of venereal diseases.

PROGRESS OF DISABLED IMPEDED BY THOUGHTLESS CIVILIANS

Disabled soldiers being prepared for their return to civilian life are seriously hampered in their efforts to adjust themselves by the morbid curiosity and thoughtlessness of some civilians, according to Staff Sergeant Robert K. Yandell, who lost a leg in the World War and is now instructing amputation cases at Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, D. C.

A leg amputee is taught how to camouflage his prosthesis by balancing exercises, special shoulder and arm movements in walking, placing his feet in certain positions when he sits down or rises, and by many other means which help to avoid drawing attention to his disability. All the hours spent in this practice are nullified if people embarrass the men by stares and prying questions. The Army Medical Department has appealed to the public for understanding and cooperation in this respect.

Medical Department Dietitians Serving on Every Front

Approximately 1000 Army Dietitians are now serving on hospital ships, in theaters of operations and in station and general hospitals in the United States.

PROGRESS IN CHEST SURGERY

Military surgeons are focusing attention on restoration of full lung function rather than the mere prevention of empyema in chest wounds -- an important advance in thoracic surgery which is reflected in the surprisingly high number of chest cases returned to duty in the Italian campaign.

Out of 320 men admitted to one general hospital with penetrating chest wounds, 225 either returned to duty or were prevented from doing so by other injuries. Only 54 developed empyema. Of these, it was felt that five might require further surgery. And only two deaths in the group were directly attributable to chest wounds.

ARMY GENERAL HOSPITAL NAMED FOR DENTAL CORPS OFFICER

Rodriguez General Hospital, at San Juan, Puerto Rico, has been named in honor of Major Fernando E. Rodriguez, U. S. Army Dental Corps. Only one other Army General Hospital has been named for a dental corps officer. Major Rodriguez, who died in 1932, pioneered in the bacteriological aspects of dental diseases. He received his D.D.S. from Georgetown University, Washington, D. C. in 1913, entered the Army as a First Lieutenant in 1917, and received his B. S. from Georgetown in 1924. He was a member of the District of Columbia Dental Society, a member of the International Association of Dental Research, and a Fellow of the American College of Dentists.

Colonel Tynes Promoted

Lieutenant Colonel A. L. Tynes, MC, of Norfolk, Va., Chief of the Construction Branch, Hospital Division, Office of The Surgeon General, has recently been promoted to the rank of Colonel. Colonel Tynes was born in Fishersville, Va. He attended Hampden Sydney College, in Virginia, and obtained his medical degree from the University of Virginia in 1930. He entered the service in 1930 as a First Lieutenant, was promoted to a Captain in 1933, to Major in 1941 and to Lieutenant Colonel in 1942. Colonel Tynes has been assigned to the Office of The Surgeon General since 1941.

GOOD HEALTH OF TROOPS IN THE U. S.

Admissions to military hospitals from troops stationed in the U.S. show that these soldiers are much healthier than were the troops stationed here during the last war. During the mobilization period, as might be expected in so large an army, admissions for disease increased somewhat over the peacetime rate. However, this rate is now dropping to peacetime level and rates of admission for respiratory and all important communicable diseases are far lower than in 1917 - 1919.

The death rate shows an even more marked improvement. It is not only lower than World War I, but is lower than the rate for the intervening peace years. This is probably due largely to the following factors: (a) reduced incidence of several communicable diseases which contribute appreciably to the mortality rate, (b) improved methods of treatment, most important being the introduction of chemotherapeutic agents, and (c) lowered average age of troops.

Among the communicable diseases figuring prominently in the present war are:

Meningococcal meningitis: As in the civilian population, this disease reached a prevalence several times higher than the normal inter-epidemic level in 1943; however, its prevalence has been somewhat lower than in the last war and its mortality, thanks to the sulfonamides, has been only a small fraction of that in the last war (case fatality rate 4.5% in 1943 as against 34.3% in 1917 - 1919).

Primary atypical pneumonia: Comparison with previous periods is impossible as this disease has only recently been recognized clinically. There is evidence that more of the pneumonias now occurring are primary atypical than of known bacterial etiology. The case fatality rate has been very low. The disease has had a seasonal distribution similar to that of the common respiratory diseases.

Diarrheal diseases: This group of diseases of diverse etiology, but having a common basis in deficiencies of sanitation, has shown a considerable increase from peacetime owing to the much greater number of troops on maneuvers, especially during the summer months, with the added problems of field sanitation. Case fatality is very low. The present trend of rates is downward.

With respect to other communicable diseases too, the record has been excellent. Measles, mumps, and scarlet fever are reduced greatly, while diseases against which immunizing methods are practised (typhoid, smallpox, tetanus) have all but disappeared.

Colonel Turner Talks at Vancouver

Lieutenant Colonel R. H. Turner, MC, Chief of the Communicable Disease Branch, Medical Consultants Division, delivered two addresses at the regional meeting of the American College of Physicians at Vancouver, B. C., on "Chemoprophylaxis of Streptococcus Infections" and "The Hepatitis Problem."

ARMY PSYCHIATRIST ASKS INDUSTRY'S COOPERATION

Speaking before the Industrial Relations Conference of the American Management Association in New York City (Sept. 28) Lieutenant Colonel Malcolm J. Farrell, Deputy Director of the Neuropsychiatry Consultants Division of the Office of The Surgeon General, stressed the need for industry to give employment whenever practicable to men disqualified for military service for psychiatric reasons. Colonel Farrell deplored the popular misunderstanding of psychiatric conditions and especially confusion over the meaning of the term, psychoneurosis. Up to 80 percent of the men who became psychiatric casualties in combat, he said, have been cured when their cases were properly recognized and treated. Many others who cannot continue to perform some type of Army duty and those who have been eliminated early in their training periods are capable of performing useful work as civilians.

NEW ASSIGNMENTS, OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM H. L. WESTBROOK, MC, of Franklin, Va., formerly Commanding Officer, Station Hospital, Torrance, Calif., to Administration Branch, Hospital Division, Operations Service.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN R. THOMPSON JR., MC, of Jackson, Tenn., former Assistant Post Surgeon, Fort Jackson, S.C., to Administration Branch, Hospital Division, Operations Service.

MAJOR MANFRED S. GUTTMACHER, MC, of Baltimore, Md., from Camp Stewart, Ga., to Chief of Training Center, Neuropsychiatry Consultants Division.

MAJOR LUTHER F. DUNLOP, QMC, of Seattle, Wash., formerly with the Civilian Personnel Branch, Industrial Personnel Division, ASF, now assigned to Facilities Utilization Branch, Hospital Division.

CAPTAIN OWEN S. OGDEN, MC, of Louisville, Ky., formerly medical instructor and epidemiologist, Ft. Francis E. Warren, Wyo., to Chief of Maternal & Child Health Branch, Civil Public Health Division, Preventive Medicine Service.

CAPTAIN CLYDE E. SERVIS, MAC, of Silver Springs, Md., from service in the Southwest Pacific, to Operations Service, Technical Division.

CAPTAIN JAMES M. LEONARD, MAC, of Los Angeles, Calif., from Raleigh General Hospital, Springfield, Mo., to Assistant Director, Museum and Medical Art Service, Army Medical Museum.

CAPTAIN RAYMOND F. CHESLEY, Sn.C., of Hope Bottom, Pa., formerly medical inspector, general hospital, China-Burma-India Theater, to Dissemination Branch, Medical Intelligence Division, Preventive Medicine Service.

CAPTAIN RAYMOND L. CHARLEY, Sn.C., of Chicago, Ill., formerly Chief of the Voucher Branch, N. Y. Medical Dept. Regional Fiscal Office, to the Field Supervision Branch, Fiscal Division.

FIRST LIEUTENANT ROY MELVIN, Sn.C., of Menard, Tex., formerly engaged in experimental work in the Panama Canal Zone to U. S. A. Typhus Commission.

DEPARTURES, OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

LIEUTENANT COLONEL HAROLD F. WILEY, AUS, of Long Island, N. Y., formerly attached to the Administration Branch, Hospital Division, has been assigned to the Office of the Quartermaster General.

MAJOR JAMES B. GILLESPIE, MC, of Urbana, Ill., former Chief of the Maternal and Child Health Branch, and acting Chief of the Nutritional Deficiencies Branch, assigned as instructor in the Civil Affairs Training School, Yale University.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARTIN A. COMPTON, MC, of Arlington, Va., former Chief Requirements Branch, Stock Control Division, to be assigned overseas.

MAJOR ROBERT S. GEARHART, MC, of Arlington, Va., former Executive Assistant, Professional Service to be assigned overseas.

CAPTAIN NILS W. BOLDUAN, MC, of Forest Hills, N. Y., former acting Chief, Field Survey Branch, Tropical Disease Control Division, to be assigned overseas.

Postwar Planning Questionnaires

A questionnaire has been mailed to medical officers in the Army, Navy and Public Health Service which will be used as the basis for postwar planning by the Joint Committee on Postwar Medical Service. Included were questions concerning educational courses desired, specialty board certification, plans for teaching, for research, for engaging in private or industrial practice, or for remaining in service. A similar questionnaire has been sent by the War Service Committee of the American Dental Association to dental officers in the Services.

COLONEL THORNDIKE ADDRESSES DISABLED VETERANS

Colonel Augustus Thorndike, MC, Director of the Reconditioning Consultants Division, in an address before The Disabled Veterans of America annual convention at Denver, Colo., September 14, explained the mission of reconditioning in the Army. Not only, said Colonel Thorndike, is the Army directed to recondition patients for return to duty, but it has assumed the obligation to return disabled soldiers to civilian life in the best possible physical and mental health. Comparing the Army's present "reconditioning" program to the "reconstruction" program of World War I, Colonel Thorndike said the chief advance was the inclusion of orientation and education in the convalescent's treatment and the training of specialized personnel to administer physical, educational and occupational therapy.

Major General George F. Lull, USA, Deputy Surgeon General of the Army was the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Jefferson Medical College Alumni Association in Philadelphia, Pa., on September 21. General Lull spoke on the reasons for the low mortality rates in this war compared with other wars.

RATION TEST CONCLUDED

The most extensive controlled ration test ever conducted using U. S. military personnel has just been concluded with highly satisfactory results. Major William Beane, MC, of the Armored Med. Research Laboratory, Fort Knox, Ky., directed the test in cooperation with Major James Robinson, Inf., and Captain David Bell, of the Royal Canadian Medical Corps. American and Canadian expeditionary rations were used.

A battalion of American soldiers on maneuvers at an altitude of 8850 feet above sea level in Colorado were fed exclusively on American rations C, K, 10 in 1, and Canadian Mess Tin B ration for a period of 60 days. During this time they were engaged in vigorous combat training.

At the conclusion of the test it was found that the troops were in better physical condition than at the start, with high morale. The rations were proven to be wholly adequate to sustain troops in vigorous combat. Certain items in the rations, however, were found to be less acceptable to the men than others, and these will be improved.

Four consultants in nutrition to The Surgeon General, Dr. Julian M. Ruffin, Dr. Frederick J. Stare, Dr. R. H. Kampmeier, and Dr. Virgil P. Sydenstricker assisted in the physical examinations. Dr. Albert Mendeloff and Dr. Carleton B. Chapmen of the Public Health Service also aided in the test. A unit from the Harvard Fatigue Laboratory under Dr. R. E. Johnson performed the laboratory examinations.

The K-9's Get First Aid

Quartermaster Dog Platoons, composed of scout and messenger dogs, carry their own veterinary technician who is trained and equipped to render first aid to sick and injured dogs and care for them. These platoons are proving of great value to patrols, especially in the Pacific Theater, where they are locating snipers and camouflaged Jap positions.

COLONEL KIRKLIN, MC, ADDRESSES RADIOLOGISTS

Speaking before the joint meeting of the American Roentgen Ray Society and The Radiological Society of North America which met in Chicago (Sept. 24-29) Colonel B. R. Kirklin, MC, Senior Consultant in Radiology of the Office of The Surgeon General, said that the Army Medical Department had overcome a serious shortage of competent radiologists at the beginning of the war by the intensive training of picked medical officers.

At present there are approximately 450 radiologists in the Army who have been certified by the American Board of Radiology and about 750 more who have had training in radiology. Many of this latter group, Colonel Kirklin predicted, will continue their training after the war and become certified radiologists, bringing to their civilian work invaluable practical experience in connection with military injuries and diseases seen chiefly in foreign lands.

SEVERAL HUNDRED DENTAL OFFICERS TO BE RELIEVED FROM ACTIVE DUTY

With the peak of the Army's work load past, several hundred dental officers will be relieved from active duty with the Army shortly, permitting their return to private practice.

MAJOR GWYNN APPOINTED RED CROSS LIAISON OFFICER

Major Henry B. Gwynn, MC, of Washington, D. C. assigned to the Reconditioning Consultants Division, Office of The Surgeon General, has recently been appointed Liaison Officer with the American Red Cross.

VETERINARY CORPS FOOD INSPECTION

Over twenty-one and one half million pounds of meat, meat food and dairy products are being inspected daily in the continental United States for the armed forces by the Meat and Dairy Hygiene Branch, Veterinary Division of the Army Medical Department.

During the month of June rejections ran 3.3 percent.

PROMOTIONS, OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

Major to Lieutenant Colonel

WILLIAM H. EVERTS, MC, of New York City, Chief of the Neurology Branch, Neuropsychiatry Consultants Division.

NORMAN Q. BRILL, MC, of New York City, Chief of the Psychiatry Branch, Neuropsychiatry Consultants Division.

OSCAR B. GRIGGS, MC, of Philadelphia, Pa., Chief of Station Branch and Acting Director of Issue Division, Supply Service.

O. R. MCCOY, MC, of Rochester, N. Y., Director, Tropical Disease Control Division, Preventive Medicine Service.

W. E. BARTON, MC, of Worcester, Mass., Assistant Director, Reconditioning Consultants Division.

WALTER L. WALLS, MC, of Richmond, Va., assigned to Army Medical Center.

HOWARD B. NELSON, PC, of Pocatello, Idaho, Chief, Supply Coordination Branch, Technical Division, Operations Service.

HERBERT A. PETSCH, MAC, of Akauchee, Wis., Chief, Inspection Branch, Mobil. and Overseas Operation Division, Operations Service.

R. R. RUMPF, MAC, of Rochester, N. Y., Chief, Reports and Records Branch, Supply Service.

C. J. BABCOCK, SnC, of Washington, D. C., Meat and Dairy Hygiene Branch, Veterinary Division.

C. A. CAPEN, JAGD, of Washington, D. C., Assistant Director, Legal Division.

Captain to Major

JOSEPH C. ELLIS, SnC, of Washington, D. C., Control Division.

CHOICE B. MATTHEWS, MC, of Kerrville, Tex., Chief, Education Branch, Tropical Disease Control Division, Preventive Medicine Service.

FRANCIS A. CARDINAL, MAC, of Worcester, Mass., Chief of Personnel Control Branch, Personnel Service.

C. E. GRAHAM RELVES, MAC, of Summit, N. J., Purchase Division, Supply Service.

LAMEN A. GRAY, MC, of Louisville, Ky., assigned to Army Medical Center.

RECENT PROMOTIONS, MEDICAL CORPS OFFICERS

Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel

IRVING SHERWOOD WRIGHT, New York, N. Y.

CLYDE ORRIN BARNEY, Syracuse, N. Y.

EDWARD HARVEY MARSH, White Plains, N. Y.

ROBERT AUGUSTUS TRUMBULL, Dallas, Texas

Major to Lieutenant Colonel

HOWARD PHELPS LEWIS, Portland, Ore.

JOHN CHRISTIAN SULLIVAN, Washington, D. C.

DONALD WILSON HASTINGS, Lake Forest, Ill.

IRVING MILTON CLYNE, Far Rockaway, N. Y.

JAMES GREENOUGH, Oneonta, N. Y.

JOHN CLINTON SHRADER, Fort Dodge, Iowa

Captain to Major

LOUIS BLAKE SHINE, New York City, N. Y.

EMMETT ROBERT HANSON, Milwaukee, Wis.

HAROLD FRAZYER MATTSON, Hillsdale, Mich.

ARMY HOSPITALS EMPLOY NURSES WAITING COMMISSIONS

Graduates of the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps who have taken their Senior Cadet period in Army hospitals and who have applied for commissions in the Army Nurse Corp, may be hired as Civil Service appointees by Army hospitals subject to the law of the state in which each hospital is located. Appointments will not exceed six months duration. This step has been taken because of the shortage of qualified nurses, and the delay in commissioning due to the fact that State Board examinations, a pre-requisite for a commission, are frequently not given for some time after the graduation date.

NEW CONCEPT OF SURGERY

A new concept of Army surgery -- aimed at full restoration of health rather than mere saving of life -- is revolutionizing the management of wounds in France and Italy, according to a report prepared by Colonel Edward D. Churchill, MC, surgical consultant of the Mediterranean Theater of Operations. The new techniques, grouped under the term "reparative surgery," are designed to prevent infection before it is established or cut it short at the period of its inception. Colonel Churchill emphasized a new "golden period" -- the time between initial surgery and reparative surgery. The report summarized the developments as follows:

"In this war there have been two quite different approaches to the application of chemotherapeutic agents to military surgery. The first would utilize these agents to permit delay in wound surgery and minimize the incision of tissue destroyed by the missile. The second employs chemotherapy to extend the scope of surgery and achieve a perfection in results previously considered impossible.

"The latter policy has guided the surgery of the Mediterranean Theater. To reiterate the axiom that penicillin is not a substitute for surgery is not enough. Every surgeon must learn that chemotherapy opens new and startling possibilities in wound management.

"To realize fully the potentialities of reparative surgery requires the introduction of a new concept in the organization of military surgery. Four to 10 days is the 'golden period' during which time wounds must be closed, fractures reduced, retained missiles removed and other procedures to prevent or abort infection must be carried out.

"Failure to take cognizance of the potentialities of early reparative surgery at the base in future plans and operations will be as glaring an omission as a failure to plan for the removal of the wounded from the field of battle."

First Physical Therapist Awarded Legion of Merit

First Lieutenant Metta L. Baxter, PT, of Los Angeles, Calif., now stationed with the 21st General Hospital in Italy, is the first physical therapist to be awarded the Legion of Merit. Her citation reads, "for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service." Lieutenant Baxter is a graduate of Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kan., and received her physical therapist certificate from the Army Medical Center, Washington, D. C.

NUTRITION CONSULTANTS APPOINTED

As Allied forces advance, they are confronted with vast problems of nutrition among the undernourished civil populations in former enemy held territory. To help the Army meet the initial responsibility, as well as to advise on problems of nutrition among our military forces, a group of experts in nutrition have been appointed Consultants to The Surgeon General. The new appointees include:

Dr. Otto A. Bessey, Chief of the Division of Nutrition and Physiology, and Director, Public Health Research Institute, New York City; Editorial Board of "The Journal of Nutrition"; Assistant Editor of "Nutrition Reviews."

Dr. E. V. McCollum, Research Professor of Biochemistry, School of Hygiene and Public Health, Johns Hopkins University; member of the Food and Nutrition Board, National Research Council; Scientific Advisory Committee, Nutrition Foundation; member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Julian M. Ruffin, Associate Professor of Medicine, Duke University Durham, N. C.

Dr. Frederick J. Stare, Associate Professor of Nutrition, School of Public Health, Harvard University; Associate in Medicine, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, Mass.; Editor, "Nutrition Reviews."

Dr. Harold C. Stuart, Director, Center for Research in Child Health and Development, and Department of Child Hygiene, Harvard School of Public Health; Assistant Professor Pediatrics and Child Hygiene, Harvard Medical and Public Health School; member of Rockefeller Foundation Health Commission to Europe, 1941; American Pediatric Society; Academy of Pediatrics; and American Board of Pediatricians.

Dr. Virgil P. Sydenstricker, Professor of Medicine, University of Georgia and Physician in Chief, University Hospital; member of Food and Nutrition Board, National Research Council; Consultant in Nutrition, Office Scientific Research and Development, U. S. Government; and former Consultant in nutrition to British Ministry of Health.